

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the previous amendments and following remarks.

Claims 1-8 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1-8 are amended. No new matter has been added.

The Office Action objects to claims 1-8. Claims 1-8 are amended to address the Examiner's concerns.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. §112 second paragraph. Claim 1 is amended to recite the first connector comprises a hole formed in a portion of the first connector located inside the frame, the hole provided for said gas flow. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112 second paragraph is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,969,314 to *Rakus et al.*; and rejects claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 4,401,863 to *Lemmer et al.* in view of *Rakus*. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The *Rakus* patent does not disclose a switching device comprising a first connector wherein the first connector comprises a hole formed in a portion of the first connector located inside the frame, the hole provided for gas flow produced by a switching event, as in Applicants' independent claim 1. Such a feature encompasses Applicants' exemplary embodiment as illustrated in Fig. 1 wherein first connector 4 includes a hole 12 located inside the frame 2.

Instead, the *Rakus* patent discloses a power circuit breaker 1 having a housing 3, a line side conductor 13 and a load conductor 15. An runner 65 is

mounted on the line conductor 13 by a bolt 79 which extends through a support block 81. The integral arcing contact and runner 65 includes a slot 97. The integral arcing contact and runner 65 is a separate component from the line side conductor 13. The integral arcing contact and runner 65 is arranged exclusively for an electric arc produced by a switching event whereas the line side conductor 13 is arranged for a load current of the switching apparatus. The integral arcing contact and runner 65 does not correspond to the first connector of claim 1 because no load current ever flows through the integral arcing contact and runner 65. The slot of the integral arcing contact and runner 65 is arranged for directing an electric arc towards an arc shoot 83 located in the upper portion of the housing 3. The slot 97 is formed to generate a phenomenon called a magnetic arc blow. The location of the slot 97 and the small area of the slot, as shown in Figure 4, show the slot is not arranged for a gas flow produced by a switching event. The ordinarily skilled artisan understands that a gas flow produced by a switching event will pass through gas flow openings provided in the top of the housing. There is no reason for the gas flow to take a detour through a slot having a small area and located off the logical flow path. Also, as disclosed in the *Rakus* patent at line 40 of column 5, the slot is a closed slot. Thus, the *Rakus* patent does not disclose a hole formed in a portion of the first connector located inside the frame, the hole provided for gas flow as in Applicants' independent claim 1.

The Office Action recognizes that the *Lemmer* patent does not disclose a hole formed in a portion of the first connector located inside the frame, the hole provided for gas flow as in Applicants' independent claim 1. The Office Action asserts that the *Rakus* patent overcomes the deficiencies of the *Lemmer* patent. However, as

discussed above, the *Rakus* patent does not disclose a hole formed in a portion of the first connector located inside the frame, the hole provided for gas flow as in Applicants' independent claim 1. Therefore, the combination of the *Lemmer* and *Rakus* patent does not include all of the features of Applicants' independent claim 1.

The dependent claims are allowable for at least the reasons discussed above as well as for the individual features they recite.

Early and favorable action with respect to this application is respectfully requested.

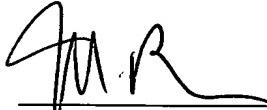
Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this Amendment or the application in general, she is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC

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